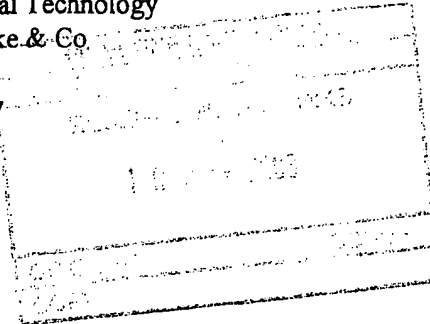




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: HL81734/ASG/par
Application No: GB 0208367.3

**The Patent Office
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4 April 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 6 October 2003

I enclose two copies of my examination report and a copy of the new citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Mole
Examiner

COMPUTER
10 APR 2003
NOTED

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0208367.3
Applicant: Enventure Global Technology

Examiner: Nicholas Mole
Tel: 01633 813797
Date of report: 4 April 2003

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Patents Act 1977

Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. In the examination of your application I have taken account of the pages 22-53 you filed with your agent's letter of 30 July 2002 to amend the application as it was printed by WIPO during the international phase. I confirm that I have taken into account the International Preliminary Examination Report dated 25 February 2002.

Conciseness/plurality of invention

2. Your claims are not concise under Section 14(5)(b) through the multiplicity of independent claims, obscuring the nature of the invention. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate clearly and concisely to only one invention or inventive concept.

Novelty

3. The invention as defined in claims 1-6, 9-11, 20, 23, 34-36, 45, 48, 59-61, 70, 73, 84-86, 95, 98, 109-111, 126-128 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

US 4573248	(HACKETT) see esp. col. 4 lines 41-43; relevant to claims 1-4, 20, 23, 45, 48, 70, 73, 95, 98
GB 2329916 A	(BAKER HUGHES) see esp. claim 4; relevant to claims 1-4, 9-11, 34-36, 59-61, 84-86
GB 2347952 A*	(SHELL INTERNATIONAL) see esp. page 36 line 4 to page 37 line 21; relevant to claims 5-6, 109-111, 126-128

The citations are in part based on the premise that a wellbore casing could also be described as an underground pipe or a structural support.

No amendment of your claims will be needed in respect of the document marked * if you can show that the priority date of your invention is not later than the priority date of the relevant disclosure in that document.

The new documents arose from the top-up carried out at the substantive examination stage.



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[Examination Report contd.]

Inventive step

4. The invention as defined in claims 12, 14, 37, 39, 62, 64, 87, 89 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following document:

US 4573248 (HACKETT)

US '248 discloses the use of a Teflon/PTFE coating. The use of chemical or adhesive means to attach such a coating to a substrate are well-known and cannot be deemed to be inventive.

Clarity/support

5. The statement of invention at page 2 lines 25-27 should fully-correspond to claim 1.

6. Claim 1 is unclear through the use of the phrase 'one or more...coupled to one another' since one tubular member being coupled to one another has no meaning.

7. Claim 19 (and hence claims 29-32, 44, 54-57, 69, 79-82, 94, 104-107, 114, 121-124, 131, 138-141, 148, 155-158, 165, 172-175) is unclear through the use of the phrase 'about' in association with a range which leaves the scope of the claim uncertain.

8. Claim 21 (and hence claims 46, 71, 96, 116, 133, 150, 167) is unclear through the use of the phrase 'less than about' which leaves the scope of the claim uncertain.

9. Claim 50 is unclear through appendency to claim 47 where appendency to claim 49 appears intended.

10. Claim 51 is unclear through appendency to claim 47 where appendency to claim 49 appears intended.

11. Claim 55 is unclear through appendency to claim 52 where appendency to claim 54 appears intended.

12. Claim 56 is unclear through appendency to claim 53 where appendency to claim 55 appears intended.

13. Claim 75 is unclear through appendency to claim 72 where appendency to claim 74 appears intended.

14. Claim 76 is unclear through appendency to claim 72 where appendency to claim 74



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[Examination Report contd.]

appears intended.

15. Claim 80 is unclear through appendency to claim 77 where appendency to claim 79 appears intended.

16. Claim 81 is unclear through appendency to claim 78 where appendency to claim 80 appears intended.

17. Claim 100 is unclear through appendency to claim 97 where appendency to claim 99 appears intended.

18. Claim 101 is unclear through appendency to claim 97 where appendency to claim 99 appears intended.

19. Claim 105 is unclear through appendency to claim 102 where appendency to claim 104 appears intended.

20. Claim 106 is unclear through appendency to claim 103 where appendency to claim 105 appears intended.

21. Claim 122 is unclear through appendency to claim 119 where appendency to claim 121 appears intended.

22. Claim 123 is unclear through appendency to claim 120 where appendency to claim 122 appears intended.

23. Claim 139 is unclear through appendency to claim 136 where appendency to claim 138 appears intended.

24. Claim 140 is unclear through appendency to claim 137 where appendency to claim 139 appears intended.

25. Claim 156 is unclear through appendency to claim 153 where appendency to claim 155 appears intended.

26. Claim 157 is unclear through appendency to claim 154 where appendency to claim 156 appears intended.

27. Claim 173 is unclear through appendency to claim 170 where appendency to claim 172 appears intended.



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[Examination Report contd.]

28. Claim 174 is unclear through appendency to claim 171 where appendency to claim 173 appears intended.

29. The scope of the claims is rendered unclear by the description at page 2 lines 2-3 where the invention is disclosed as relating generally to wellbore casings. However many of the claims lie outside the scope of this definition.

30. The description is unclear through the incorporation by reference of unpublished patent documents at pages 1, 5-6, 7 and 8-9.

Registered Trade Marks

31. Although it should preferably be avoided, if you wish to keep the references to the Registered Trade Mark "C-Lube" on pages 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21 of your specification, you should acknowledge that it is a Registered Trade Mark, possibly by using the abbreviation "(RTM)". If you do not insert an acknowledgment, I will do so in manuscript. You should not use the Trade Mark "C-Lube" in claims 20, 45, 70, 95, 115, 132, 149, 166 because of potential uncertainty as to what is claimed.

Furthermore, the use of the trade names C-Phos in the claims also renders the scope of the claims uncertain.

Non-metric units

32. The equivalent metric values and temperatures in °C should be given alongside the non-metric values and non-Celsius temperatures mentioned on pages 7, 10 of your specification.